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ANTHONY ALBANESE FIRST OZ PM TO GET HITCHED WHILE IN OFFICE

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese married his partner Jodie Haydon in a secretive ceremony Saturday at his residence in Canberra

PET DOG RING-BEARER; PAIR WRITE OWN VOWS

Albanese is the first prime minister to marry while in office in the 124-year history of the Australian federal government. The couple were married by a civil celebrant before 60 guests, including several cabinet ministers. The pair wrote their own vows and their dog Toto was the ring bearer. Haydon's 5-year-old niece Ella was the flower girl, a statement read

AVOIDS LAVISH WEDDING ON EXPERT ADVICE

- Albanese, 62, who is divorced with an adult son, had proposed to Haydon, 46, at Canberra's The Lodge on Valentine's Day last year
- They initially planned a larger-scale wedding. But the ruling center-left Labor Party feared a lavish wedding during a cost of living crisis could hurt the government's chances of being re-elected

2020

IS WHEN HAYDON MET ALBANESE AT A BUSINESS DINNER IN MELBOURNE

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Software update of A320s delays flights in India

4 flights cancelled; updates likely by midnight

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

GLOBAL fears of a massive travel chaos following a European Union Safety Agency advisory on Friday to fly about 6,400 Airbus A320s in service only after a flight control software update, were largely eased as airlines scrambled to implement it quickly. While some flights were delayed, only a few cancellations were reported.

In India, where 338 A320 are operational, Air India, IndiGo and Air India Express fixed the problem in most of their fleet after the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) gave them a Sunday morning (5.29 am) deadline to do so.

It, however, led to flight delays, while Air India Express cancelled four of its flights on Saturday to facilitate compliance.

Air India Express flights from Varanasi to Bengaluru, Bengaluru to Varanasi, Guwahati to Jaipur and Jaipur to Guwahati were cancelled while its flights were delayed across some sectors. IndiGo A320 aircraft across the country suffered a delay of up to 30 minutes, said a source. Air India flights too suffered delays.

The problem is expected to be fixed in all A320s before midnight. As of 5.30 pm, Indigo upgraded the software in 184 out of its 200 A320s; Air India did likewise for 69 on 113 aircraft; and Air India Express did so for 17 on 25 aircraft.

The issue was detected after a preliminary technical probe by Airbus on an accident involving a JetBlue flight in the US on October 30.

UNCOMMANDED PITCH-DOWN EVENT

The problem was first noticed in an Jet Blue Airbus A320 last month after it experienced an "uncommanded and limited pitch-down event. The autopilot remained engaged throughout the event, with a brief and limited loss of altitude." The rest of the flight was uneventful

Captain C S Randhawa, former Deputy Chief flight Inspector Operations, DGCA, told this newspaper, "A flight from Cancun in Mexico to Newark International Airport in the US suddenly lost altitude when flying and caused injuries to the passengers on board. This happened when the auto-pilot mode was on, which is meant to smoothly take care of operations. It was later detected that the Elevated Aileron Computer in the cockpit had malfunctioned due to solar radiation," he said.

Top 2 chant unity mantra after b'fast do

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, who met over breakfast at the former's official residence 'Cauvery' here on Saturday after the high command's nudge, projected a united front, signalling a truce on the power transfer tussle.

After the meeting, Siddaramaiah addressed the media along with Shivakumar, but refused to give a concrete reply on whether he would or would not honour the supposed agreement where he would transfer power to Shivakumar after completing the first half of two-and-a-half-year term as CM. The agreement was said to be struck within days of Congress coming to power in Karnataka in May 2023. "I said whatever the decision the high command takes we will abide by it. Have you (the media) understood it or not? This is my reply to your question," Siddaramaiah hit back, even as Shivakumar looked on with a smile.

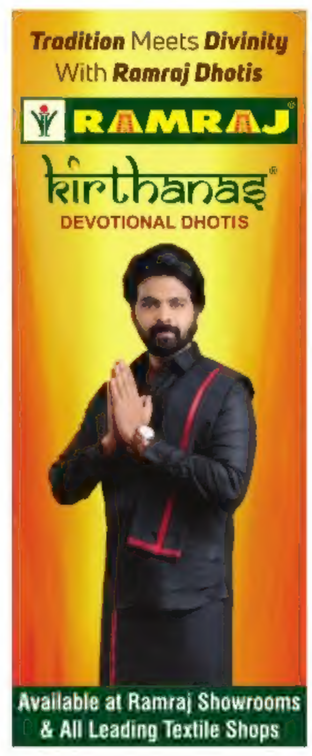
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar hold a meeting over breakfast at the CM's residence 'Cauvery' in Bengaluru on Saturday | EXPRESS

Shivakumar said he has the same political stand on the leadership issue as Siddaramaiah, which is to go by the decision of the top brass. It is said that the party top leadership has asked him to wait for sometime, which was what he conveyed during the press meet.

He said, "We know that the party is going through difficult times in our country. But we are confident that Karnataka will play a major role. We will form the government again in 2028, and move forward in 2029 (LS polls) as well under the leadership of Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi."

The tussle between the two leaders over power transfer intensified after they indulged in shadowboxing on 'X'. Shivakumar put up posts, insisting that Siddaramaiah should keep his word on power transfer, while the latter hit back, stating that he kept his word by fulfilling the promises made to the people of the state. That was when the high command intervened and advised them to settle the issue over breakfast.

Siddaramaiah said, "As there is a session, both of us have been instructed to clear the confusion. It will not be there from tomorrow. The agreement between us is that both of us will move forward together which will be communicated to the high command." MORE: P4



HC sets aside order on Yezdi trademark

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court set aside the order passed by a single judge declaring Ideal Jawa Pvt Ltd as owner of the mark 'Yezdi' (word and device) and all trademark registration certificates issued by the Registrar of Trademarks, Mumbai, Delhi and Ahmedabad in favour of Boman R Irani are null and void.

A division bench of Justices DK Singh and Venkatesh Naik T passed the order while allowing the appeals filed by Classic Legends Pvt Ltd, Boman R Irani and others, challenging the single-judge order dated December 16, 2022.

CONTINUED ON P5

National emergency in Lanka as toll rises to 153

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

SRI Lanka was on Saturday picking up the pieces after widespread destruction caused by cyclone Ditwah, with President Anura Kumara Dissanayake declaring a state of emergency throughout the country as the death toll rose to 153.

Disaster management authorities in Colombo told local newspapers about 191 people still remaining untraced as search and relief efforts continue across 25 districts. The cyclone brought landslides, flash floods, and heavy rains, affecting over 7,74,724 people from 2,17,263 families. More than 15,000 homes were destroyed, and nearly 78,000 people have been displaced to temporary shelters, marking one of Sri Lanka's worst natural disasters in recent public memory.

Houses submerged in floodwaters after heavy rainfall in Kaduwela on the outskirts of Colombo, Sri Lanka, on Saturday | AFP

Demonstrating its "neighbourhood first" spirit, India has rapidly escalated its humanitarian response under Operation Sagar Bandhu. The Indian Air Force deployed a C-130 and an IL-76 from Hindon Air Base on the night of November 28-29, delivering 21 tonnes of relief materials, including essential rations and disaster relief equipment, alongside over 80 National Disaster Response Force personnel to Colombo.

"India stands firmly with Sri Lanka in this hour of need," the IAF said in a message on X.

The Indian Navy stepped in and dispatched dry and fresh rations and crucial supplies, including 4.5 tons of dry rations, 2 tons of fresh rations, and essential items, with the help of INS Vikrant and INS Udaygiri. Foreign Minister Dr S Jaishankar said on X that two Chetak helicopters from aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, staffed with Sri Lankan Air Force personnel, undertook search and rescue operations.

Further assistance arrived with two IAF MI-17V5 helicopters carrying 22 personnel and supplies, led by Wing Commanders Nagesh Kumar and Mukul Mahajan. Another naval vessel, INS Sukanya, has left Visakhapatnam en route to Sri Lanka with more relief materials.

TN, AP COASTS ON ALERT: P7

EXPRESS READ

KSCA poll: HC relief for Shanth Kumar

BENGALURU: The Karnataka High Court on Saturday quashed the order passed by the Electoral Officer rejecting the nomination papers filed by KN Shanth Kumar to contest for the post of president of Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA)|P6

Five of a family killed in road accident in Andhra

Bangarpet: Five members of a family, including two children, were killed and two others seriously injured in a head-on collision between two cars at Kotekal Ghat in Yammiganur Mandal of Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh on Saturday|P5

Adoption agency CEO: Are orphans falling into hands of traffickers?

RASHMI PATIL @Bengaluru

IN a loaded statement on child adoptions in the country, Bhavana Saxena, Member Secretary and CEO, Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), said, "Is there any loophole in the legal system? We need to find out where the orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children are ending up. Why is the registration in the State Adoption Resource Centre and Child Care Institutions so low? Last year, in India, there were only 4,515 adoptions. It is a low figure though it is the highest in the last ten years. Are there leakages in the legal system through which these children are falling into the hands of traffickers? It is time that various departments work together and fix this issue."

She said on Saturday, "33,000 prospective parents have registered on the official website and are waiting to adopt. But barely 2,000 children who are in various child care institutions are Legally Free for Adoption (LFA). It is shocking to see such statistics and figures in a country of 1.3 billion people. These are unreasonable figures."

She was speaking at the state-level adoptive families and Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAP) meet organised by the Directorate of Child Protection on the theme, 'Adoption of Children with Special Needs', at Bal Bhavan in Bengaluru.

She suggested that the responsibilities of stakeholders, including Children Welfare Committees, District Child Protection Officers, Specialised Adoption Agencies (SAA) and Child Care Institutions, are clearly laid down in the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015. P6

MAKING A POINT

J&K-PoK barter is intra-state trade, rules HC

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

IN a significant judgment, the J&K and Ladakh High Court ruled that trade between J&K and Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) qualifies as intra-state trade, as PoK is part of J&K and trade is bound by the GST Act.

Cross-LoC trade between J&K and PoK was started in 2008 as a confidence building measure by India and Pakistan. However, after the February 14, 2019 Pulwama suicide attack in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed and many others injured, India suspended the cross-LoC trade and cross-LoC bus service between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad, PoK's capital.

"The cross-LoC trade was essentially a barter trade where there was no exchange of currency from either side. This cross-LoC trade was between the people living across LoC i.e., trade between two parts of the State of Jammu and Kashmir - one, the then 'State of Jammu and Kashmir' and the other PoK, observed a division bench of J&K High Court comprising justices Sanjeev Kumar and Sanjay Parihar.

The division bench was hearing at least 35 petitions challenging CGST show-cause notices issued to them.

4 SC circulars specify oral mention rule, urgent matters

UDAYAN KISHORE @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court has barred litigants from orally mentioning matters for urgent listing before the Chief Justice of India as items requiring special attention will come up for hearing automatically within two working days.

The court made these changes while restructuring the system of oral mentioning, urgent listing and adjournment of cases effective December 1.

The changes also include barring senior advocates to mention matters before any bench, while encouraging junior counsel to make oral mentionings.

A circular said bereavement in the family or medical emergencies of advocates or parties were the only grounds for adjournments, apart from other genuine reasons accepted by the court.

Four circulars issued by the SC registry on Saturday said the changes were to reduce unnecessary mentioning before benches, and ensure faster listing of matters.

For cases requiring advance listing due to urgent interim orders, parties must submit the mentioning proforma and a letter explaining the urgency to the Mentioning Officer by 3 pm on the previous working day or 11.30 am on a Saturday.

Exceptions are limited to anticipatory bail, death penalty, habeas corpus and urgent eviction or demolition issues.

> **No listing on same day unless liberty is involved or a death sentence is to be executed**
> CJI Surya Kant